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National Historian's Report

Chicago, Ill.,
June 25, 1916.

To the Phi Delta Kappa Fraternity:

Brothers: The office of National Historian of the Fraternity has had no precedents to follow and no models by which to be guided. Although there was a provision for the selection of a National Historian made several years ago, it was only at the meeting of the National Council held one year ago at Oakland, California, that the office was made a definite part of the organization and a member of the Fraternity elected to fill it.

The duties of the National Historian are outlined in Article III, Section 8 of the 1915 Constitution. It reads as follows: "It shall be the duty of the Historian to receive and keep on file all reports pertaining to the historical record of the Fraternity and its individual members, and he shall at all times be responsible for the existence of a complete record of this sort. He shall use uniform record blanks adopted by the Executive Committee. He shall require the Chapters to report on these blanks at stated times the information therein called for, to be published in a directory at the discretion of the Executive Committee and sold to members by the Secretary. He shall keep on file a complete list of the members of the Fraternity."

Owing partly to an apparent lack of willingness to co-operate on the part of some of the Chapters, and in others to actual inability to collect the necessary data on members, it has been impossible during the past year to make more than a beginning in fulfilling the duties of

this office as enumerated above. Shortly after the last Council meeting, letters were sent out from the Historian's office asking for important items concerning each member, such as his Chapter number, his date of initiation, how he was initiated (as active, associate or honorary) his present status, his position and address. An attempt was made to explain the best manner of compiling this information and the nature of the simple requirements.

For a considerable time there were no responses whatever to these requests. Finally two Chapters (established at a comparatively recent date) sent in their lists. Then a second letter was sent to the Chapters urging an attempt to hasten the work of compiling the data. Two more Chapters responded after a rather long time. Other letters were sent out in an effort to obtain the information—five in all during the year. But seven Chapters from a total of seventeen have been heard from, and of this number three lists had to be returned owing to the fact that they were not complete or that instructions had been entirely disregarded. At the present time the Historian has but five complete and satisfactory lists of members.

It must be apparent to all that such a laxity on the part of the Chapters is intolerable. If it is to continue it will utterly defeat the intentions of the 1915 Council. If the next Council will lend its support and give permission to use more drastic measures in enforcing better responses from delinquent Chapters, it is believed that the situation will be much improved from now on.

The first and most necessary information required by the National Historian is that referred to above. A complete list of all men who have ever been initiated into the Chapters must be obtained as soon as possible. The data required will be at first rather simple. A letter should be sent to all Chapters soon after the beginning of the college year in which the nature of this data should be clearly outlined. Owing to the fact that much of the information compiled this year is now out of date, new lists will be necessary from even those Chapters which have already forwarded their lists.

It is the intention of the present Historian to index this preliminary data in three different ways. The first will be according to Chapter numbers. This index will include such information as: Chapter numbers (the consecutive order in each Chapter list will be followed), date of initiation, the manner of initiation (active, associate or honorary), the present position and status of each man, and his address.

The second index will be according to the geographical location of members. From this it will be possible to ascertain just what men are in different countries, states, cities, etc.

The third index will be alphabetic. In case of ignorance of a man's Chapter a quick way of finding this fact will be provided. It is perhaps unnecessary to dilate further upon the advantages of this three-fold classification. The Chapter index will contain all the important current data, the others merely that under their headings. Reference can always be made from them to the Chapter index. In all cases the member's Chapter number will occur which will locate him in the Chapter index.

Another provision has been made for

tabulating all the information which will be of interest concerning each man's academic and professional history and activities. This will be in the form of large record sheets. The data on them will be much fuller than that on the card indices. These sheets will be sent to the individual members themselves after their addresses are obtained. The men will fill out the blanks and the Secretaries of the Chapters will complete the record where all the information is not given by the members. These will be bound in loose leaf binders in the national office, one volume for each Chapter.

The Chicago Council should recommend that each Chapter keep a complete record of its membership which should be as nearly as possible a duplicate of that on file with the Historian. For that purpose the Historian should send to each Chapter a supply of the large forms sufficient to provide one for each member. He should also send samples of his small index cards which the Chapters can use as models in having their own supply printed. A uniform system will thus be provided for, ease of compiling the data and of transferring it will be assured and clerical labor will be much reduced.

As far as the Directory and History is concerned, this should be taken care of by a provision that after the beginning of the next fiscal year the November number of the National Magazine should every two years be the Directory number and should contain a complete list of members of each Chapter, their status in each case, position, location, address, etc. It may be possible to publish a list of corrections between issues. An effort should be made to make the historical phases in general as complete as possible.

The fact that some Chapters have had such a great amount of difficulty in compiling their lists, that in a number of cases they have found but the meagerest of attempts to preserve data concerning their membership (and even at times none at all), would seem to indicate unmistakably that some uniform system of doing this work and some appreciation of its importance is vitally necessary.

The Historian will report progress in

this work from time to time either directly to the Chapters, or thru the medium of the National Magazine. He bespeaks the cooperation of the Chapters and of Chapter officers, and promises in return that he will hold himself ready at all times to be of all the service he can to the Chapters and to our Fraternity as a whole.

J. DAVID HOUSER,
National Historian Phi Delta Kappa.



Proposed Constitution

OF THE PHI DELTA KAPPA FRATERNITY

N. B. *This is the proposed Constitution, and is not in force as amended, until ratified by three-fourths ($\frac{3}{4}$) of the active Chapters.*

Amended at the Seventh Annual Meeting of the Council, July 8, 1916.

ARTICLE I NAME

The name of this organization shall be "Phi Delta Kappa".

ARTICLE II NATURE AND PURPOSE SECTION 1. NATURE

Phi Delta Kappa shall be a professional education fraternity. In its nature it shall present three aspects; namely, the professional, the fraternal, and the honorary.

SECTION 2. PURPOSE

It shall be the purpose of this Fraternity to support the highest educational